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Executive Registry

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19 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director (Support) *How* 9 SEP 1963SUBJECT: Security Briefing of General Blake and  
Dr. Tordella1. This memorandum is for information only.

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2. On Wednesday, 18 September at 2:00 PM Mr. John Bross, myself and two members of the Office of Security met with General Blake, Dr. Tordella and [ ] of NSA for security briefing purposes. I gave an outline of the CIA security functions in the personnel security and counterintelligence fields with particular emphasis on employee cooperation in this program. I strongly made the point that the program as it operates within CIA is fully accepted by Agency personnel and is effective because of their cooperation and assistance. At the same time in the course of the briefing we were able to draw comparisons between the CIA and the NSA system where we felt an NSA weakness existed. This was done in an acceptable manner and fully appreciated and understood by General Blake and Dr. Tordella.

3. It was evident from questions asked by General Blake on counterintelligence matters that he had little knowledge in this field and was not familiar with the standard terminology. As a result it was difficult to understand the exact meaning of some of his questions and clarification had to be sought before an answer could be given. Further, he had a misunderstanding or misconception as to the CIA counterintelligence program.


4. It is quite possible that in view of this lack of familiarity with the counterintelligence field that when General Blake appeared before the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, he could well have

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misunderstood some of the questions addressed to him and perhaps his replies and responses thereto were not addressed to the questions. It is possible that this could have led to the rather critical reaction by the Board to General Blake's appearance.

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R. L. Bannerman  
Director of Security

cc: DD/S

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